

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE TORRANCE TRAFFIC COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Traffic Commission convened in a regular meeting at 7:05 p.m. on Monday, December 7, 2009 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

In the absence of Chairperson Galvin, Vice-Chairperson Clouch led the meeting.

2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice-Chairperson Clouch.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Lewis, Rische, Sargent, Santome, Tsao, and Vice-Chairperson Clouch.

Absent: Chairperson Galvin (excused).

Also Present: Transportation Manager Semaan,
Project Manager Sedadi,
Torrance Police Captain Smith, and
Management Associate Fulton.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Santome moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

5 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF OCTOBER 26, 2009

Commissioner Sargent noted the following correction to the minutes: Page 4, "**MOTION**: NOES: Commissioners Clouch, Galvin, Santome, and Tsao."

Commissioner Rische stated that he wanted to discuss the minutes and it was decided to vote on the approval of minutes until after consideration of Item 7A.

Vice-Chairperson Clouch explained the policies and procedures of the Traffic Commission, including the right to appeal decisions to City Council.

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

None.

7. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION

7a. TRAFFIC CIRCULATION FOR SOUTHWOOD SUNRAY NEIGHBORHOOD IN THE VICINITY OF SEPULVEDA BOULEVARD, CRENSHAW BOULEVARD, 232ND STREET, AND IRIS AVENUE

Transportation Manager Semaan provided background on the material of record and recommended that the Commission receive public input and direct staff to bring back an item addressing concerns brought up by the residents in this neighborhood. He noted that there were representatives from Torrance Police Department and the City Manager's Office in the audience.

Newton Young, Hickory Avenue, representing Southwood/Sunray Homeowners Association, discussed traffic problems on Greenwood Avenue between 225th and 227th Streets as well as on Hickory Avenue. He related his understanding that Hickory Elementary School has two crossing guards but noted that he has never seen one at 227th Street and Greenwood Avenue. He recommended installation of a three-way stop at 227th Street and Greenwood Avenue to slow down traffic on the long stretch between 232nd Street and 225th Street. He recommended speed bumps on 225th Street, Hickory Avenue, Cerise Avenue, and possibly Eriel Avenue. He voiced support for speed bumps or a three-way stop at Cerise Avenue and 225th Street as well as at Eriel Avenue and 226th Street.

Steve Oda, Iris Avenue, expressed concern about speeding on Iris Avenue and the difficulty of backing out of driveways. He recommended installation of speed bumps on the Greenwood Avenue curve south of 230th Street and a stop sign at 227th Street and Greenwood Avenue.

Heather Rose-Chase, Cerise Avenue, discussed the dangerous crosswalk at the intersection of 227th Street and Greenwood Avenue and expressed support for installation of a stop sign.

Patricia Picker, West 231st Street, discussed the difficulty of turning left at the intersection of 232nd Street and Crenshaw Boulevard because of high-speed traffic and recommended installation of a traffic signal. She further related her observation that drivers often ignore stop signs behind Hickory Park.

Gary Gawlas, West 225th Street, concurred that stop signs are often ignored and recommended installation of speed bumps to slow down traffic.

Michael Klint, West 225th Street, distributed a photograph of a hospice and expressed concern about speeding on 225th Street, adding that it is a major cut-through for drivers trying to avoid the Sepulveda Boulevard/Crenshaw Boulevard intersection. He recommended installation of a stop sign at 225th Street and the cut-in alley.

Stafford Howlett, West 225th Street, offered his observation that he did not see that many cars exceeding the speed limit at 225th Street and Cerise Avenue when there was a radar speed indicator present.

Michael O'Brien, West 225th Street, expressed concern about speeding on 225th Street and emphasized the need for a stop sign.

Steven Katz, West 232nd Street, expressed the need for more traffic enforcement at Greenwood Avenue and 232nd Street where stop signs are often ignored. He further voiced support for a three-way stop sign at 227th Street and Greenwood Avenue and pointed out that the second crossing guard is at 230th Street and Juniper Avenue.

Wayne Elias, West 232nd Street, expressed his opinion that a stop sign or signal at 232nd Street and Crenshaw Boulevard would increase traffic in residential areas.

Carolyn Saruwatari, West 230th Street, distributed a petition and voiced her support for a three-way stop sign at 227th Street and Greenwood Avenue.

Eric Ngo, Fern Avenue, related his observation that drivers going northbound on Greenwood Avenue are trying to turn left at 227th Street and are not looking out for pedestrians.

David Farrar, West 225th Street, suggested using cameras to catch speeders and asked staff to consider that there may be increased speed and traffic in the alley north of 225th Street if changes are made on 225th Street.

Phillip O'Connor, West 225th Street, recommended installation of stop signs and school zone signs at 225th Street and Cerise Avenue as well as 225th Street and Eriel Avenue to discourage cut-through traffic.

Eleanor Edwards, Greenwood Avenue, voiced her support for a stop sign at 227th Street and Greenwood Avenue due to speeding vehicles.

Alissa Materman, West 232nd Street, concurred with Ms. Edwards and also expressed her support for installing speed bumps on 232nd Street between Greenwood Avenue and Elm Avenue to reduce speeds.

Terry Traina, Cerise Avenue, stated that stop signs are often ignored and the only viable solution is installation of speed bumps.

Eric Boysen, Greenwood Avenue, discussed the speeding problem on Greenwood Avenue, noting that it is dangerous for pedestrians crossing at 227th Street.

Danette Bothwell, West 232nd Street, recommended installation of a stop sign at 227th Street and Greenwood Avenue and expressed concern about speeding on 232nd Street as well.

Stephanie O'Brien, Cerise Avenue, voiced her support for a stop sign or at least a crossing guard at 227th Street and Greenwood Avenue.

Kristen Anderson, West 230th Street, echoed Ms. O'Brien's comments and added that there is no red curb and cars parallel park right up to the crosswalk line making it even more dangerous for pedestrians to cross the street.

Elaine Kong, Wade Avenue, stated that speeding on Crenshaw Boulevard is a problem and expressed support for a stop sign at 227th Street and Greenwood Avenue.

Julie O'Brien, West 225th Street, stated that not stopping at a stop sign is enforceable and drivers can be given tickets.

Christine Boysen, Greenwood Avenue, noted that there is a YMCA day care on Greenwood Avenue and drop off and pick up goes on all day.

Kristen Michaelian, Cerise Avenue, submitted a petition and voiced her support for installation of a three-way stop sign at 227th Street and Greenwood Avenue.

Andrea Howlett, West 225th Street, stated that she does not think more stop signs are necessary but that she supports installation of a speed hump, more speed limit signs, and "Slow Down" signs.

Commissioner Santome stated that a combination of solutions are needed and expressed support for "Slow Down" signs, more enforcement, and speed humps rather than speed bumps. He urged residents to submit all suggestions to staff as well as the City Manager's Office.

Commissioner Lewis requested that staff address the speed bump/hump issue. He noted that some times stop signs do not help, that for liability reasons it is much easier to install a stop sign than to take it out, and discussed problems of having a stop sign in front of a home.

Commissioner Sargent received clarification from staff that traffic volume, speed, and turn movement data would be collected in January 2010 during normal weekdays, results would be brought back in February 2010, and that residents would be re-noticed.

Commissioner Tsao expressed concern about how long it has taken to resolve these issues and recommended installation of a stop sign at 227th Street and Greenwood Avenue as soon as possible.

Commissioner Rische urged residents to maintain their interest in what is going on in the City. He noted that stop signs installed in the Seaside Rancho area have been effective and that he is not bothered by the stop sign near his residence. He also requested that staff provide reasons why speed bumps or humps are not desirable.

Commissioner Clouch stated the two main problems are school drop off/pick up and cut-through traffic and urged residents to continue to put pressure on the City to resolve these problems. He offered the suggestion to install a temporary stop sign that crossing guards could put up and take down each day.

MOTION: Commissioner Santome moved to have staff to bring back an item addressing concerns brought up by the residents in the neighborhood of Sepulveda Boulevard, Crenshaw Boulevard, 232nd Street, and Iris Avenue and 1) to conduct an immediate study for the installation of stop signs north/south bound on Greenwood Avenue at 227th Street, and 2) to conduct as appropriate a more intensive study for traffic circulation in other areas of the neighborhood. Commissioner Sargent seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Chairperson Galvin).

The Commission was in recess from 8:38 p.m. to 8:50 p.m.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: OCTOBER 26, 2009

Commissioner Rische entered into record his letter dated December 7, 2009 to staff members and Commissioners regarding corrections and thoughts about the October 26, 2009 meeting minutes.

Vice-Chairperson Clouch stated that Commissioner Rische's concerns and objections to editing should be in the minutes and that this issue has come up several times in the past.

Commissioner Santome stated that Commissioners should not demand or expect verbatim minutes and that the City Attorney's Office, the City Manager's Office, and the City Clerk have explained that the purpose of minutes is to reflect the spirit of what the Commission does and not what individual Commissioners state.

Commissioner Sargent stated there should not be objection to correcting the minutes and that Commissioner Rische's request was reasonable.

Commissioner Lewis noted that Commissioner Sargent was not present at the October 26, 2009 meeting to hear Commissioner Rische's "tirade," that Commissioner Rische was speaking as a public citizen, and that is all that should be reflected in the minutes.

Commissioner Tsao asked staff if it would be possible for Traffic Commissioners to review minutes before agenda packets are sent out.

Following discussion, it was decided to amend the October 26, 2009 minutes as follows: Page 6, Item 8e., "Commissioner Rische, speaking as a citizen, expressed his opinions about the transparency of some communications from the Police and Community Development Departments."

MOTION: Commissioner Santome moved for the approval of the October 26, 2009 meeting minutes as amended. Commissioner Tsao seconded the motion; the motion passed on a 4-1 roll call vote (Commissioner Lewis voting no, Commissioner Sargent abstaining, and Chairperson Galvin absent).

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

8a. In response to Commissioner Sargent's inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan advised that substantial concerns about Commission meeting minutes should be directed to City Clerk Herbers.

8b. Commissioner Clouch stated that, according to the Commissioner Handbook, shortly after each Commission meeting Commissioners are supposed to receive a synopsis of what are in meeting minutes.

8c. Commissioner Lewis commented on his embarrassment on the tenor of the meetings.

8d. Commissioner Santome thanked staff for their efforts and Management Associate Fulton and Captain Smith for being present at this meeting.

8e. Commissioner Rische stated that the Christmas lights in Seaside Rancho are beautiful, the traffic is heavy, that it is dangerous because people are driving without their headlights, and that hopefully a solution is found before next Christmas.

8f. Following a brief discussion, it was determined that the Commission would go dark in January 2010.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 9:22 p.m., Commissioner Tsao, seconded by Commissioner Rische, moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, February 1, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room and, hearing no objection, Vice-Chairperson Clouch so ordered.

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| Approved as Amended February 1, 2010 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk |
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